DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 4/27/83
RDS ☐ or XGDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSEMENTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒ in part
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS (B)(1)

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Department of State

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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AUTHORITY TO "SENTENCE" THEM TO OFTEN UNSPECIFIED TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT. IN SUCH CASES THERE IS NO ACCESS WHATSOEVER TO JUDICIAL REDRESS. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

HAS APPEALED TO THE PRESIDENT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THE YEAR FOR THE RELEASE OF INDIVIDUALS IMPRISONED OFTEN ON THE SLIGHTEST OF PRETEXTS AND WITHOUT CHARGE OR PUBLIC TRIAL. IT HAS ALSO INTERVENED WITH THE GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE TWO CASES OF KIDNAPPING OF SUSPECTED OPPONENTS: IN JUNE 1979, KODJOVI DE SOUZA AND TEYI LAWSON WERE SEIZED IN GHANA; AND IN OCTOBER 1979, BENIS LAWSON, A FRENCH CITIZEN OF TOGOLESE ORIGIN, WAS TAKEN BACK TO TOGO FROM NIGER BY TOGOLESE MILITARY PERSONNEL. HE WAS RELEASED IN NOVEMBER 1979.

-- CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT AT THE GENDARMERIE HEADQUARTERS AND THE TOKOIN MILITARY CAMP IN LOME, AT LAMA KARA PRISON AND AT THE TEMEDJA PARACOMMANDO CAMP ARE REPORTED TO BE HARSH. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS RECEIVED REPORTS OF SEVERE OVERCROWDING, POOR NUTRITION AND HYGIENE, INSUFFICIENT MEDICAL FACILITIES AND THE GRANTING OF ONLY OCCASIONAL VISITS BY FAMILIES AND FRIENDS AT THE TWO LOME DETENTION CENTERS. THESE POOR CONDITIONS HAVE LED TO A HIGH INCIDENCE OF ILLNESS AMONG DETAINEES. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REMAINS CONCERNED AT THE NUMBER OF DEATHS OF POLITICAL DETAINEES WHICH HAVE NOT RESULTED IN AN OFFICIAL INQUEST. THESE DEATHS HAVE OCCURRED EITHER IN DETENTION OR SHORTLY FOLLOWING RELEASE AND HAVE INCLUDED IN THE YEAR THE CASES OF FOUR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, ONE GENDARME AND BARNABAS AKU.

-- TWO PRISONERS HELD WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL SINCE DECEMBER 1979, QUIST CROSBY AND ANTOINE LAWSON, WERE RELEASED IN APRIL 1980 FOLLOWING APPEALS FROM SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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E.O. 12356 Sec 1.3(a)(5) Mil

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